

SAMPLE 1

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXXX,

I respect the enormity of balancing the state budget. Difficult choices must be made. Please make sure early childhood and school readiness tops your list of funding priorities to protect. Economists and business leaders agree that getting kids on the proper trajectory early is the among the most important economic development investments we can make.

SAMPLE 2

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXXX,

Please restore the \$1.8 million that was cut from the Child Care Enhancement Program in the governor's budget proposal. You may not be aware, but that program provides vital mental health services to keep high-risk children from being expelled from child care. Without the help, a lot of those kids will fail in school, and then where will they be? A few dollars invested will keep a lot of kids on the right track now and off the wrong track later.

SAMPLE 3

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXXX,

Studies show that investment in early childhood programs (birth to 5 years) yields huge dividends and tremendous cost savings now and in the future. Wilder Research economists say Michigan saved \$1.15 billion last year as a result of investments in prekindergarten. Despite that, the Legislature cut funding for more than 2,000 pre-K slots last year. Please make sure that doesn't happen this year.

SAMPLE 4

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXXX,

You have a chance to help impact Michigan's economic recovery and set a path for future prosperity. How? Maintain early childhood and school readiness a priority as you work to balance the state budget. Investment in prekindergarten yields returns of more than \$1 billion annually and immediately. It also yields a quality workforce for tomorrow. Win-win.

SAMPLE 5

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXXX,

Would adding another \$1 billion to the state budget deficit make your job more difficult? Well, investments made previously in prekindergarten saved Michigan \$1.15 billion last year in reduced social costs (criminal justice, special education, welfare). Reduce funding and watch the deficit grow. Pay a little now or a lot later.

SAMPLE 6

Dear Rep./Sen./Gov. XXXXXXXX,

Economists and business leaders agree that investment in early childhood and school readiness programs tops the list of smart economic development moves Michigan can make. Making sure kids begin school with the proper foundations to learn and excel in school will create a better workforce. Please make sure early childhood and school readiness tops your list of priorities as you undertake your work on the state budget.